Dog in Passenger Coach

2100. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsItem captioned "Dog in passenger coach holds up train" which appeared in the 'Times of India' dated July 8, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts of the case;

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the guilty persons; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent such cases in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) One RPF sniffer dog named 'Julie' with two handlers were to travel from Lucknow to Delhi in order to undergo a refresher course at Breeding-cum-Tranining Centre, Delhi. As per the provisions of Railway Servants (Pass) Rules, 1986, Schedule VII (Special Passes), RPF dogs are entitled for Ist Class Pass alongwith handlers and a Special Duty for Ist Class was issued for the dog with handlers. The Head Reservation-cum-Enquiry Clerk who was approached for reservation, issued a confirmed journey-cum-reservation ticket for the dog as well as two handlers in 2nd AC Class by train No. 4229 (Lucknow Mail) of 6.7.96. When the dog and handlders entered the coach, the passengers objected to the RPF handlers carrying a dog in the compartment. The Additional DRM/Lucknow who was travelling by the same train intervened in the matter and on his insistence, the dog handlers with dog got down from the train. The train suffered a 15 minutes extra detention as a result of this incident.

(c) A joint enquiry by Division Security Commissioner and Divisional Commercial Manager/ Lucknow was conducted. During the enquiry it was found that carrying of dog in AC 2 tier is prohibited and Head Reservation-cum-Enquiry Clerk had violated the Rules in Booking berths in the names of the dog and two handlers. He was placed under suspension and a chargesheet is being issued to him for having acted in contravention of relevant Rules of IRCA Coaching Tariff. Chargesheets have also been issued to the RPF dog handlers under Rule 158 of RPF Rules, 1987 for having got reservation done in a class not entitled to and having entered into unnecessary arguments with passengers who were justified in objecting to carrying dog in AC II tier compartment. The ASI Incharge of the dog squad has also been taken up departmentally for slack supervision.

(d) Instructions have been issued to the Officers Incharge of dog squad to ensure that the dog should not be allowed to be carried in AC 2 tier, AC Chair Car, or other prohibited classes in future.

Expansions of Railways in Bundelkhand Region

2101. SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to expand railways in the Bundelkhand region;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time earmarked for the implementation of this scheme; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey for a new BG line from Lalitpur-Khajuraho-Satna, Mahoba-Khajuraho and Rewa-Sidhi-Singrauli (491 kms.) has been taken up.

Further consideration of the proposal will be possible, once the survey report becomes available.

(c) Does not arise.

Ramjanam Bhoomi

2102. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :
SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT :
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :
SHRI CHITTA BASU :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to refer the Ramjanam Bhoomi-Babri Masjid issue to the Supreme Court under Article 136(2) of the Constitution;

(b) if so, whether the elections to the State Assembly of U.P. will be held on receipt of verdict from the Supreme Court before October 1996; and

(c) if not, whether the elections to the State Assembly would be postponed till then?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) One of the points of the 'Common Minimum Programme' announced by the Government is to refer the contentious issue of Babri Masjid-Ram Janma Bhoomi to the Supreme Court under Article 138 (2) of the Constitution.

(b) and (c). The timings of the elections to the State Assembly in UP and the reference to the Supreme Court under Arcicle 138(2) of the Constitution are separate issues and are not linked.